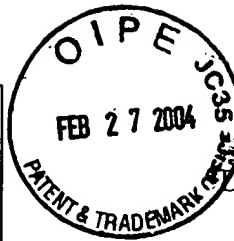


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Dated: February 27, 2004

Signature: _____

(Shantanu Basu)



Docket No.: 220002060725
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael J. MAHAN et al.

Application No.: 09/928,227

Art Unit: 1645

Filed: August 9, 2001

Examiner: G. Portner

For: METHOD OF REDUCING BACTERIAL
PROLIFERATION

RECEIVED

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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 27, 2003 (Paper No. 14), for which a response was due on November 27, 2003. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for three months extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to February 27, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.